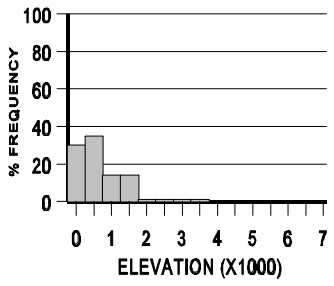
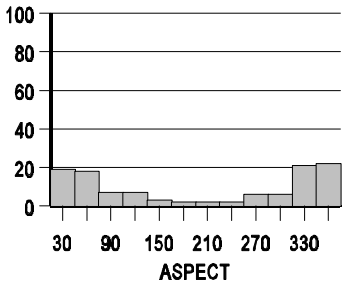
TANOAK-WESTERN HEMLOCK/EVERGREEN HUCKLEBERRY/WESTERN SWORD-FERN *(RIP)*
Lithocarpus densiflorus-Tsuga heterophylla/Vaccinium ovatum/Polystichum munitum (Rip)
LIDE3-TSHE/VAOV2/POMU-RIP (N=43; NRCS=40, FS=3)

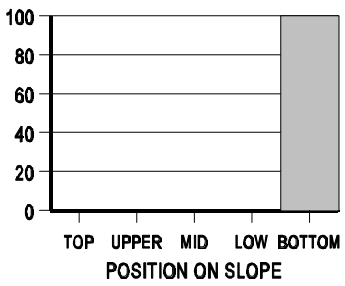
Distribution. This widely occurring Association occurs almost entirely west of Range12 West (Myrtlewood Resource Area, Gold Beach, Chetco, and Powers Ranger Districts). It is more common in the northern townships. It is not likely to be found inland.

Distinguishing Characteristics. This Association is mostly coastal, but a few sites may be found immediately west of the crest on lower concavities along the Rogue River canyon. The most frequently occurring parent material is sandstone. Most sites occur below 1500 feet in elevation and on bottom positions. Although south facing slopes occasionally support this complement of species, it is more highly associated with north aspects. It is a member of the Western Hemlock Subseries.

Soils. Parent material is frequently sandstone, and rarely mixed metamorphic. Soil depth averages greater than 37 inches. Surface rock cover averages 33 percent,







2 percent in the gravel size class.

Environment. The average elevation is about 1000 feet, the lowest average for the Series. Slopes average 36 percent. Average annual temperature is 53 degrees F and average annual precipitation is 100 inches. Exposed surface rock, often colluvial, is common in these riparian systems; moss cover is usually greater than 50 percent. These sites are often protected from wind and radiation by topography, and a complement of wet species, associated with the Western Hemlock Subseries, is usually present.

Vegetation Composition and Structure. Total species richness, intermediate for the Series, is 23. All layers are near average Series richness. Western hemlock and California-laurel indicate the coastal influence. Tanoak dominates the regeneration layer. Western hemlock will continue to be a part of the species complement through all successional stages (Western Hemlock Subseries). Big-leaf maple commonly occurs on these riparian sites. Rarely, white fir (grand fir mix), red alder, western redcedar, Port-Orford-cedar, and California-laurel are present. Occasionally, salmonberry occurs on the wettest coastal sites, but evergreen huckleberry, red huckleberry and Pacific rhododendron dominate. As with other associations in the Tanoak-Western Hemlock Subseries, western sword-fern is the dominant herb and Oregon oxalis cover is high.

Common name	Code	Constancy	Cover*	Avg. Richness
Overstory trees				5
Douglas-fir	PSME	100	37	
Western hemlock	TSHE	67	6	
California-laurel	UMCA	53	<10	
Understory trees				4
Tanoak	LIDE3	97	25	
Western hemlock	TSHE	67	6	
Big-leaf maple	ACMA3	53	<10	
Shrubs				5
Evergreen huckleberry	VAOV2	95	~30+	
Red huckleberry	VAPA	63	10	
Pacific rhododendron	RHMA3	55	<20	
Dwarf Oregongrape	BENE2	55	7	
Herbs				10
Western sword-fern	POMU	100	52	
Redwoods violet	VISE3	75	~1	
Oregon oxalis	OXOR	65	20	
Western starflower	TRLA6	55	1	

*The Natural Resource Conservation Service estimated species dominance. Cover values were estimated by using a combination of dominance values and cover values estimated on Forest Service Ecology Program plots.